

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6390**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 124**

**DATE PREPARED:** Apr 7, 1999

**BILL AMENDED:** Apr 6, 1999

**SUBJECT:** Grandfathering of employees; Mental health counselors.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Brian Tabor; Bernadette Bartlett

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *Grandfathering of employees:* This bill provides that an individual who is employed by certain state government agencies in certain job classifications is exempted from having to obtain a license as a social worker, clinical social worker, or mental health counselor for as long as the individual remains in the same job classification or job family of that job classification.

*Mental health counselor licensure:* This bill provides an exemption to certain mental health counselor licensure requirements for individuals with certain experience or education.

*Continuing education sponsors:* The bill also requires the Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board to amend an administrative rule to add the Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers to the list of organizations that are approved as sponsors for continuing education programs.

**Effective Date:** (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 1999.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Grandfathering of employees:* This provision would not have a fiscal impact.

*Mental health counselor licensure:* This bill provides an exemption to certain mental health counselor licensure requirements for individuals with certain experience or education. Under the proposal, applicants must have (1) at least 20 years of mental health counseling experience in a joint commission accredited agency and a bachelor's degree in psychology; or (2) a master's or doctor's degree in counseling, clinical or counseling psychology, mental health, applied human development, or psychology. The provision expires on December 1, 1999, which also limits the number of eligible applicants. The Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, and Mental Health Counselor Board may incur some additional administrative expenses resulting from new applications for mental health counselor licenses; however, the precise number of

potential applicants associated with this bill is not known.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations. As of 2-26-99, the State Personnel Manning table reported that the Bureau had three vacancies; however, the Bureau intends to fill these positions. With respect to reversions, the Bureau reverted \$223,413 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$214,707 in fiscal year 1996-97. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions. The bill contains no appropriations.

*Continuing education sponsors:* This provision would not have a fiscal impact.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** (Revised) *Mental health counselor licensure:* This proposal could generate additional license fees if it increases the number of applications for mental health counselor licensure. Although the specific impact is indeterminable, it is not expected to be significant. License fees are deposited in the State General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Health Professions Bureau.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:**